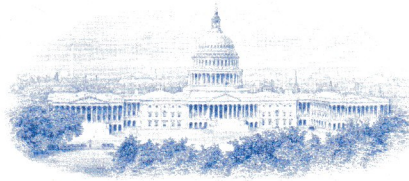


DON YOUNG
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DEAN OF THE HOUSE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES**

REPUBLICAN LEADER, SUBCOMMITTEE
ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND
PUBLIC LANDS

**COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

**REPUBLICAN
STEERING COMMITTEE**

August 27, 2020

Dr. Steven Dillingham, Census Bureau Director
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Director Dillingham,

I am writing to you today to request that you extend the deadline for the end of field data collection from September 30 back to the date of October 31 that you and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced on April 13, 2020. The plan you announced last April acknowledged the devastating impact that the COVID-19 pandemic was having on the ability of the Census to implement a complete and accurate count. The operations that were delayed and disrupted in Alaska and throughout the country were done to protect the health and safety of census workers and local communities. But the time lost and other disruptions caused by this delay mean that Census workers will not be able to finish a complete and accurate count by the end of September.

The Census Bureau knows full well the problems of conducting the Census in Alaska with our size, geography, remote communities, lack of roads and unpredictable weather. That is why the Census starts in Alaska every 10 years. Those same barriers are now contributing to the reason why an accurate count cannot be completed by September 30 and why Alaska currently has the lowest Census self-response rate in the nation.

If the count is cut short now, we will suffer the largest inaccuracy in counting of any state and that will be reflected by a loss of federal funding for services like schools, infrastructure improvements, economic development, Medicaid, and countless other vital programs. An accurate census count is more important now, as we continue to feel the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Current pandemic relief funds have been allocated based on 2010 census data, and a complete and accurate count this year will ensure that pandemic recovery funding and other resources, such as medical supplies and equipment, are directed to where they are most needed in coming years.

I know that Census Bureau staff have stated that they need additional time to complete the census in all communities. I ask that you extend the deadline to end field

operations so there is adequate time to complete the Non-Response Follow Up phase of the Census.

Every state economy is reeling from the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, but Alaska is unique in many ways and all our Alaska communities and census workers deserve the time needed to produce a complete count.

Sincerely,



DON YOUNG
Congressman for All Alaska